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House of Representatives

ESTABLISHING VETSTAR AWARD PROGRAM!

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Speaker, again, I want to thank the chair of our VA Committee for the incredible cooperative effort we have devoted so far in this Congress. He mentioned on the last bill that we are united to try to find a way to cut through these intolerable and inexcusable delays in the disability claims process. And we are working together as a top priority to make sure that those who have served this Nation have a job when they get back because that, of course, leads to everything else good in our society. A good job is what is needed, and we are united in saying to our veterans this is going to be our top priority.

What we have done here in H.R. 802 is again a small step which will highlight efforts and create an incentive for businesses to hire veterans by directing the VA to develop a very low-cost annual award program to recognize businesses who contribute to veterans' employment,

the award to be displayed by business owners as a recognition of the business owner's commitment to the veteran community.

I think the First Lady and the Second Lady of this country are doing much to promote what our Nation is doing for families of veterans. The White House might convene a summit of those who are both helping and will pledge to help hire veterans and highlight this issue more for all Americans.

This bill would authorize the VA to advertise the program in the national media and allow the public to be educated on those businesses that support the employment of veterans.

Again, I thank the chairman for scheduling the bill. It's part of our Memorial Day tribute to our veterans. I ask that our colleagues support the legislation.